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June 9, 2005

Mary Cottrell
Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, Mass. 02110

RE: Bay State Gas, DTE 05-27 – support of Attorney General’s Motion for Oral Argument

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

MASSCAP supports the Attorney General’s Motion for Oral Argument. The number and breadth of intervenors in this proceeding demonstrates the importance of this case to a wide cross-section of interests in the Commonwealth. About 20% of all low-income natural gas customers in the Commonwealth are served by Bay State Gas in a territory that extends from Springfield to Lawrence.

As the extent of discovery has already demonstrated, this promises to be a case based on thousands of pages of record evidence and hundreds of pages of briefing. Oral argument will provide the parties with the opportunity to succinctly present their most salient points directly to the Commission and provide the Commission the opportunity to question those cases if it desires to do so. This can only strengthen the decision-making process and make the daunting burden of reaching a decision a little less daunting.

For all these reasons, and those set forth in the Attorney General’s motion, MASSCAP et al. fully supports the Attorney General’s Motion for Oral Argument.

Respectfully submitted,

MASSCAP et al., by

Jerrold Oppenheim

cc: Hearing Officer, Service List